National Storage Policy

3669. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing problem of storage of foodgrains this year, in view of record production;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to announce a national Storage Policy;

(c) if so, whether due to lack of infrastructure a large number of foodgrains get wasted or rotten every year;

(d) whether Government have initiated any new measures for storage of foodgrains in its godowns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No Sir. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has adequate storage capacity (owned and hired — covered and CAP) to accommodate the forthcoming wheat stocks. The field officers of FCI have been delegated full powers to hire additional storage capacity as and when necessary.

(b) Yes Sir. The Government is in the process of formulating a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) In the new storage policy under formulation, the private sector participation is proposed to be sought and encouraged for development of infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country. The private sector will also be encouraged to build storage capacity to store and maintain the foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be paid storage charges.

Scrapping Supply of sugar Through PDS

3670. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided not to supply sugar through public distribution completely;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not doing so?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Edible oil

3671. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds used to import edible oil on Government account for the last two years;

(b) the amount of funds used to import edible oil on private account for the last two years; and

(c) the amount of Central funds used for development of oilseeds in the farm sector for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The amount of funds used to import edible oil on Government account for the last two years, *i.e.*, 1997-98 and 1998-99 have been Rs. 195.53 Crores and Rs. 485.03 Crores respectively.

(b) Import of edible oil is on OGL and private trade imports different kinds of edible oils from different kinds of edible oils from dfferent destinations at Different points of time. Government does not keep an account of funds used in the import of commodities by private trade. According to the figures published by DGCI&S, Calcutta, the value of edible oils imported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is Rs. 2,765 crores and Rs. 7,131 crores respectively.

(c) A centrally sponsored Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented by the Agriculture Ministry for the development of Oilseeds. The phasing of the central expenditure for the implementation of Oilseeds production programmes (OPP) during 1997-98 and 1999-2000 have been Rs. 109.73 crores and Rs. 102.30 crores respectively.